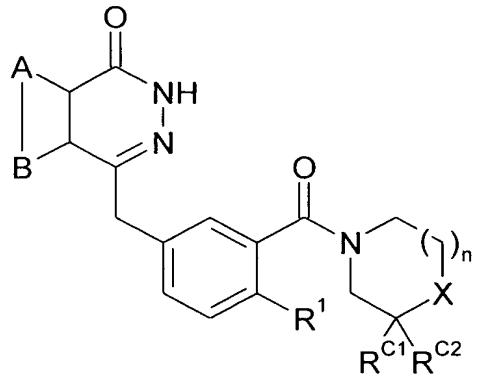
Claims

1. A compound of the formula (**I**):



and isomers, salts, solvates, chemically protected forms, and prodrugs thereof, wherein:

A and B together represent an optionally substituted, fused aromatic ring;

X can be NR^X or CR^XR^Y;

if X = NR^X then n is 1 or 2 and if X = CR^XR^Y then n is 1;

R^X is selected from the group consisting of H, optionally substituted C_{1-20} alkyl, C_{5-20} aryl, C_{3-20} heterocyclyl, amido, thioamido, ester, acyl, and sulfonyl groups;

R^Y is selected from H, hydroxy, amino;

or R^X and R^Y may together form a spiro-C_{3-7} cycloalkyl or heterocyclyl group;

R^{C1} and R^{C2} are both hydrogen, or when X is CR^XR^Y, R^{C1}, R^{C2}, R^X and R^Y, together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached, may form an optionally substituted fused aromatic ring; and

R^1 is selected from H and halo.

2. A compound according to claim 1, wherein the fused aromatic ring(s) represented by -A-B- consist of solely carbon ring atoms.

3. A compound according to claim 2, wherein the fused aromatic ring represented by -A-B- is benzene.

4. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^1 is selected from H, Cl and F.

5. A compound according to claim 1, wherein R^{C1} and R^{C2} are both hydrogen.

6. A compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 2, X is NR^X, and R^X is selected from the group consisting of: H; optionally substituted C_{1-20} alkyl; optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl; optionally substituted ester groups; optionally substituted acyl groups; optionally substituted amido groups; optionally substituted thioamido groups; and optionally substituted sulfonyl groups.

7. A compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 1, X is NR^X, and R^X is selected from the group consisting of: H; optionally substituted C_{1-20} alkyl; optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl; optionally substituted acyl; optionally substituted sulfonyl; optionally substituted amido; and optionally substituted thioamido groups.

8. A compound according to claim 1, wherein n is 1, X is CR^XR^Y, R^Y is H, and R^X is selected from the group consisting of: H; optionally substituted C_{1-20} alkyl; optionally substituted C_{5-20} aryl; optionally substituted C_{3-20} heterocyclyl; optionally substituted acyl; optionally substituted amido; and optionally substituted ester groups.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent.

10. A method of treatment of a disease ameliorated by the inhibition of PARP, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

11. A method of treatment of cancer, comprising administering to a subject in need of treatment a therapeutically-effective amount of a compound according to claim 1 simultaneously or sequentially in combination with ionising radiation or a chemotherapeutic agent.

12. A method of treatment of cancer in an individual comprising; administering a compound according to claim 1, wherein said cancer is deficient in a HR dependent DNA DSB repair pathway.

13. A method according to claim 12 comprising the step of identifying

the individual as having a cancer condition which is deficient in a HR dependent DNA DSB repair pathway.

14. A method according to claim 13 comprising administering ionising radiation or a chemotherapeutic agent to said individual.

15. A method according to claim 12, wherein said cancer comprises one or more cancer cells having a reduced or abrogated ability to repair DNA DSB by HR relative to normal cells.

16. A method according to claim 15, wherein said cancer cells have a BRCA1 or BRCA2 deficient phenotype.

17. A method according to claim 16, wherein said cancer cells are deficient in BRCA1 or BRCA2.

18. A method according to claim 12, wherein said cancer is breast, ovary, pancreas or prostate cancer.

19. A method according to claim 12, wherein said individual is heterozygous for a mutation in a gene encoding a component of the HR dependent DNA DSB repair pathway.